

Internship Posting Date: July 1, 2008
Internship ID #: 08007



Intern Application Deadline: Until Project Completion

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Internship Opportunity

Internship: ☒ Summer ☒ Fall Semester ☒ Winter Break ☒ Spring Semester

Internship Type: ☐ Co-op* ☒ Credit-Bearing* ☐ Non-credit

Internship Pay: ☒ Non- Paid ☐ Paid Pay Rate: _____

Intern Level: ☐ Graduate School ☒ Undergraduate ☐ High School

Suggested Background or Knowledge: GPS/GIS Skills, Environmental Law, Public Policy

DEP Program Area and Work Unit Offering the Internship: Coastal and Land Use Enforcement Program

Internship Location: Toms River and Trenton, New Jersey

Internship Project Description:

This is an ongoing project that will require at least one intern per semester to complete.

Student interns to work with the Coastal and Land Use Compliance & Enforcement (CLUE) program to assist with a variety of issues concerning compliance and the long term management and maintenance of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. Assist staff in addressing current and expected future enforcement issues that have/will arise due to the work of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway Strategic Planning Team that was created by the commissioner.

Basically the Tasks are: File Review (records search); Site Inspection / Survey / Mapping; and Public Outreach and Education

FILE REVIEW - Conduct reviews of DLUR permit files to try and locate all the previously approved permits and plans pertaining to the construction of the walkway and make copies to have one central repository for future reference. Also include searching the DLUR files &/or county records for the required conservation easements and long term monitoring and maintenance agreements that are supposed to be recorded.

SITE INSPECTION / SURVEY / MAPPING - Assist with conducting an overall evaluation of the current compliance status of the completed walkway segments by conducting site inspections or tours of the walkway. This is to include identifying the location of all required walkway amenities, especially public access signs, benches, rest rooms, fishing piers and perpendicular access routes etc. This could be done incorporating GPS & put on maps using GIS and include digital photographs. Problem areas or hazards such as missing signage, benches, lighting, missing paver stones etc could be identified to notify the respective owners of needed repairs or possible enforcement action. Note: the research being conducted by the Hudson River Walkway Strategic Planning Team is only searching for those segments already built and/or permitted and is trying to get gap areas completed. It is NOT looking into detailed compliance issues listed above but those detailed compliance questions continue to arise during the normal course of business and as a result of the Strategic Planning Team. It has been discussed that the Strategic Planning Team may continue and would like to address such issues in the future. Ideally, Task #1 Records research would be done before conducting the site evaluation. Having this information available on GPS/GIS would make future compliance evaluation much more efficient and easier (and have a clear record of what had existed or should exist - such as public access signage).

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PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION –

1. Assist with creating/preparing public outreach and education materials to promote greater use of the walkway especially for those living along the walkway as well as those from outside the area coming to visit the walkway. Such as web sites (with links via the DEP web site) or "tourist" type maps showing places of interest to visit located on or near the walkway (i.e., places to go to from the walkway using the walkway) such as restaurants, movie theaters, shopping, parks, public transportation, linkages to other greenways/walkways/bikeways in the area, and etc.
2. Conduct surveys along the walkway for overall use of the walkway and public perceptions of it (e.g., how those in more urban areas view it or use it - such as for commuting, vs. those in less urban areas in private gated communities - who seem to have a negative view that it just brings in outsiders to infringe on their privacy). This information could be helpful to focus on ways for better promotion OR possible changes for future walkway segments to make them better and more enjoyable (the more the locals value the walkway themselves, the more they will demand good quality walkways thereby leading to better overall compliance and less need for often difficult and time-consuming enforcement actions)
3. Create and help install signs along the walkway identifying places to go (e.g. sign "go 2 blocks up to this great restaurant" type thing) Signs could be paid by advertisers who sponsor a segment of the walkway or a bench or something like that (as I've often seen done along the boardwalk in beach towns)
4. Promote public events such as craft fairs, fishing tournaments, charity walks or bike-a-thons along the walkway to help promote it. Money raised could also possibly help fund walkway construction (or alternative access around industrial sites without a walkway) on public lands or other gap sites that are not under active development.
5. More promotion for use of the walkway as an alternative transportation corridor for those living along the walkway (incorporating any or all of the above) and NOT solely just for general public access for outsiders to get to the walkway.
6. Identify segments of the walkway that do not have separate bike lanes but are designed properly & well enough that they could easily accommodate a bike lane and maybe paint separate bike lane lines to help promote more/better/safer bike use.
7. Assist with better/more coordination with the DOT alternative transportation (bike) units, DEP Office of Planning and Sustainable Communities and/or other outside advocacy groups or clubs (such as local bike clubs, other greenways/bikeways/riverwalks etc, Hudson Co., Bergen Co., and the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy).

Estimated Project Duration and Suggested Weekly Work Schedule: Flexible

Internship Learning Objectives / Marketable Skills: Field Methodology, Permit Review and Evaluation, Map Development, Public Outreach, Regulatory Knowledge

Description of DEP Program Area/Work Unit Offering the Internship:

The Bureau of Land Use Compliance and Enforcement is responsible for Responding to reports and/or complaints of possible land use violations received from municipal and county officials, private

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citizens, and other public and private organizations. Staff within the Bureau conduct education and outreach programs to educate all levels of government, organizations, and citizens on the technical aspects of the rules regulating development in areas under Land Use jurisdiction and the importance of complying with them. Inspectors are also responsible for conducting compliance inspections of Land Use Permits to ensure compliance with their conditions, requirements, and limitations, and issuing enforcement documents compelling compliance, including Notices of Violation, Administrative Orders and Notices of Civil Administrative Penalty Assessments, as well as executing Administrative Consent Orders to resolve cases and ensure compliance and restoration. Inspection staff monitor enforcement cases to ensure compliance either by the Respondent securing appropriate Land Use permits or by removing the violation by restoration and/or mitigation.

Internship Hiring Contact: Rebecca Jones - rebecca.jones@dep.state.nj.us

Internship Sponsor: Randy Bearce

***For credit-bearing internships only:** Sponsor Phone Number and Email: (732) 255-0816
Randy.Bearce@dep.state.nj.us

Please Respond With a Completed Application Form, Resume, and Cover Letter to:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Human Resources
P.O. Box 408 / Trenton, NJ 08625
Attn: Internship Program
Email Address: rebecca.jones@dep.state.nj.us

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